



## Markus Kornprobst

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**Markus Kornprobst**

*Post-Doctoral Fellow, Mershon Center*



### "Argumentation and Compromise: Why the Republic of Ireland Selected the Territorial Status Quo Norm"

**Tuesday, October 11, 2005**

**12:00 p.m.**

**Mershon Center  
Room 120**



*How do states come to select norms? I contend that, given a number of conditions are present, states select norms in three ideal-typical stages: innovative argumentation, persuasive argumentation, and compromise. This norm selection mechanism departs from the existing literature in three important ways: First, my research inquires in depth not only into the international but also the domestic processes through which states select norms. Second, I elaborate on the literature on advocacy networks. I explain why agents engage in an advocacy for a normative idea in the first place; I add the epistemic dimension of reasoning to argumentation theory; and I show in detail the pathways through which persuasive argumentation links an advocated idea and already established sets of meaning. Third, synthesizing Rationalist and Constructivist selection mechanisms, I contend that successful argumentation makes recalcitrant actors eager to reach a compromise with the advocates as long as this does not violate their most cherished beliefs. The Republic of Ireland's eventual selection of the territorial status quo norm in the late 1990s lends empirical evidence to this norm selection mechanism.*

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Markus Kornprobst (Ph.D., Toronto) is a post-doctoral fellow in political science at the Mershon Center. His research interests encompass International Relations Theory, International Security, Nationalism and Identity Politics, and Regions in World Politics. His recent publications include "Episteme, Nation-builders, and National Identity: The Re-construction of Irishness," *Nations and Nationalism* 11/3 (2005); "Explaining Success and Failure of War to Peace Transitions: Evidence from Revisiting the Angolan and Mozambican Experience," *Journal of Conflict Studies* 22/2 (2002); "The Management of Border Disputes in African Regional Sub-systems: Comparing West Africa and the Horn of Africa," *Journal of Modern African Studies* 40/3 (2002). At the Center, he is working on a book manuscript on norm selection through argumentation, entitled *Argumentation and Compromise: The Politics of Irredentism in Europe*. Furthermore, he is pursuing research projects on the European Union's management of international crises and on analogical reasoning in International Relations Theory.